

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE RULE 350

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 350 is amended as follows:

**350. RETURN OF SENATE MEASURE WITH AMENDMENT.** Upon the return to the

Senate of a Senate bill or resolution that was amended and passed by the House, the

President shall refer the measure to the chairman of the standing committee that reported the

measure to the Senate. The chairman, ~~by motion on the floor,~~ shall recommend whether to

concur in the amendments. If the recommendation is to not concur and to appoint a

conference committee, the President shall appoint a conference committee. Without objection,

a motion to accept recommendations to not concur and to appoint conference committees must

be voted on in a single vote. If any member objects to voting on a recommendation to not

concur and to appoint a conference committee with other recommendations to not concur and

to appoint conference committees, that recommendation must be voted on as a separate item.

**NOTE:** This rules amendment is in response to a suggestion from Senator Andrist received on April 3, 2003:

In six sessions I've never heard a no vote on the question of appointment of a conference committee. It seems to me the process could be safely expedited using the following approximate procedure.

The Secretary reads:

Sen. Stenehjem moves, seconded by Sen. Christmann, that the Senate not concur with House changes to the following bills:

SB 288\_Sen. Mutch appoints Senators 1, 2, and 3, to a conference committee.

SB 288\_Sen. Judy Lee appoints Senators 1, 2, and 3, to a conference committee.

SB 288\_Sen. Urlacher appoints Senators 1, 2, and 3, to a conference committee.

**PRESIDENT:** Are there any requests for individual action on any of these bills? Hearing non, the question will be on approval of the above named conference committees.

**THE VOTE**

The proposed amendments to Senate Rule 349 track the language of House Rule 349, which adopted this procedure in 1995 as a result of a recommendation of the Legislative Management Committee during the

1993-94 interim. The 1995 Legislative Council report contains this description of the rationale for the House adoption of this language:

The committee reviewed the procedures followed in each house under Senate and House Rules 349, relating to return of amended measures and appointment of conference committees. In the Senate the standing committee chairman made the motion to not concur and to appoint a conference committee. A separate motion was made for each measure. In the House the Majority Leader made a motion to not concur amendments to a number of bills and to appoint conference committees. The speaker then appointed the conference committees, which were individually listed in the journal. The issue discussed by committee members was whether it was more favorable to have individual consideration of a recommendation to not concur and appoint a conference committee or to group into one motion all recommendations to not concur. Because of the practices favored by each house, the committee recommends amendment of House Rule 349 to provide that, without objection, a motion to accept recommendations to not concur and to appoint conference committees must be voted on in a single vote. If any member objects to voting on a recommendation to not concur, that recommendation must be voted on as a separate item. As a result of this recommendation, Senate Rule 349 continues to describe the procedure followed by the Senate and the proposed change to House Rule 349 describes a procedure followed by the House.